

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 070768
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DRAFTED BY:AF:W:PGSMITH

APPROVED BY:AF:E:JWHITING

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 070768

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM LUSAKA DATED MARCH 15, 1978
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EIND EAGR EPAP ZA

SUBJ: WORLD BANK OFFERS ZAMBIA PAPER MILL PROJECT

1. THE WORLD BANK HAS OFFERED ZAMBIA A PULP MILL PROJECT
VALUED AT
APPROXIMATELY \$107 MILLION. THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS
MADE BY A WORLD BANK INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS DEPARTMENT ENGINEER,
MR. ANDREW EWING, WHO SAID THAT FEASIBILITY STUDIES INDICATE
THE PROJECT WOULD BE ECONOMICAL. THE MILL WOULD INITIALLY
PRODUCE PAPER TO BE USED FOR PACKAGING BUT WOULD EVENTUALLY
MANUFACTURE OTHER ITEMS SUCH AS NEWSPRINT. THE PROJL CT IS
DESIGNED TO SAVE ZAMBIA FOREIGN EXCHANGE NOW USED TO IMPORT
PAPER PRODUCTS.

2. THE MILL IS AN EXTENSION OF A WORLD BANK FORESTRY DEVELOP-
MENT PROJECT AIMED AT PLANTING 15,000 HECTARES OF PINE,
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2,500 HECTARES OF EUCALYPTUS, AND REPLANTING 2,000 HECTARES
OF CLEAR FELLED PLANTATIONS IN NDOLA. THE WORLD BANK LOANED
ZAMBIA SOME \$17 MILLION FOR THAT PROJECT LAST YEAR.

3. ACCORDING TO MR. EWING, THE MILL PROJECT HAS BEEN OFFERED
TO ZAMBIA BUT THE GRZ HAS NOT YET REACHED A DECISION TO GO
AHEAD WITH IT.

4. COMMENT: THE WORLD BANK ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD PROVIDE A PSYCHOLOGICAL LIFT FOR ZAMBIA. THE ECONOMIC NEWS HAS BEEN ALL BAD LATELY WITH PREDICTIONS OF FURTHER DECLINE. IF NOTHING ELSE, THE WORLESBANK PROJECT CAN BE USED AS EVIDENCE BY THE GRZ OF CONTINUED CONFIDENCE IN ZAMBIA BY THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL COMMUNITY. IT IS THE FIRST SUCH EVIDENCE IN QUITE A WHILE.
LOW UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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